

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



Richard Mancuso Greenway – In my March 2012 Newsletter, I mentioned that the City was looking at ways to commemorate Richard's years of civic involvement. Many of you have seen his portrait at City Hall in recognition of his 2012 Fort Lauderdale Citizen of the Year Award. On June 5th, the Commission approved adding the name, "Richard Mancuso Greenway," to the public right-of-way Richard so carefully maintained along the Himmarshee Canal between SE 8th Avenue and SE 2nd Court in Beverly Heights. Richard also worked tirelessly on redistricting maps, and we are creating a **Reapportionment Committee** to review and recommend new boundaries for City Commission Districts that are as approximately equal in population as is practicable.

Municipal Elections – We've agreed to have the Broward County Supervisor of Elections add a proposed City Charter amendment on the November 6, 2012, General Election ballot. The proposal is to amend the City Charter to eliminate municipal primary elections, provide for municipal elections in November 2018 and every four years

thereafter, and to provide four-year terms for the Mayor and Commissioners beginning in November 2018.

Abandoned Properties – Staff and I have begun reviewing the approaches taken by other cities to deal with abandoned properties. We are developing an Action Plan to have these properties once again occupied by legitimate owners and tenants. Goals include neighborhood revitalization, increased property values, and improved quality of life for residents citywide. Cost-savings will be realized by reducing the number of calls for service from departments, such as Code Enforcement, Police, Solid Waste, and Water and Sewer.

Homeless Issues – I recently participated in a Homeless Task Force meeting organized by Hope South Florida, Inc. Thirty-five concerned citizens from all sectors of our community, together with city and county representatives, gathered to work on such issues as shared feedings, housing needs, Stranahan Park, and the costs associated with addressing these matters.

Marshall Point Bridge – On June 2nd, we dedicated the elaborate tile murals created by artists Kevin Kichar of Fort Lauderdale and Diane Hutchinson of Palm Beach Gardens. On June 5th, the Commission approved cost-sharing with Broward County of \$152,000 for the long-awaited noise mitigation for the bridge, located at SW 4th/7th Avenues.

State Historic Marker – In conjunction with the murals event on June 2nd, we unveiled the historic plaque at Major William Lauderdale Park, 400 SW 11th Avenue in Sailboat Bend.

Shippey House – Cooper Properties is generously donating all labor and materials to complete the reconstruction of the front porch. The donation is being made in memory of the late Gerry Cooper, a fellow Rotarian and longtime community volunteer.

South Side School – Staff has been in weekly meetings and submitting bimonthly reports on South Side School. At this time, the overall first bid design is 90 percent complete, so we will be commencing the RFP process for remodeling the interior very soon. During the process, it will be critical to make sure the end use of the facility is factored into the contractual agreement.

US1/Henry E. Kinney Tunnel Construction – The FDOT project team has maintained the contract schedule, and with the rain days and holidays, the projected contract will end in mid-August.

Herbal Incense/Bath Salts – The Commission has asked the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to ban the sale and distribution of these potentially dangerous, mind-altering substances to the greatest extent possible.

Board Openings – Affordable Housing, Fire-Rescue, and Utility Advisory committees; Community Services Board.

For Your Calendar:

- June 2 – August 11, 7 - 11 PM: Saturday Night Alive, on AIA from the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. to The Ritz Carlton Hotel.
- June 15 – August 3, 7 - 10 PM: Starlight Musicals, on the football field at Holiday Park.
- June 25, 10 AM - 1 PM: Commission's Goal-setting Follow-up Workshop, Executive Airport, 6000 NW 21st Avenue.
- June 28, 5:30 - 7:30 PM: Mayor Seiler's State of the City Address, Museum of Discovery and Science.
- June 29, 11 AM - 1 PM: Joint Commission and Pension Boards Meeting, City Hall - 8th Floor Conference Room.
- July 4, 1 - 9:30 PM (fireworks at 9 PM): Fourth of July Spectacular, on the beach at A1A and East Las Olas Boulevard.
- July 11 – August 19: Summer Recess (July 10 is the only meeting that month; meetings resume August 20).
- July 17, 6:30 - 7:30 PM: I will hold a Telephone Town Hall Meeting with the City Manager. Details to follow.
- August 27, 7 - 9 PM: Joint Quarterly Workshop with Commission and Budget Advisory Board, City Hall - 8th Floor Conference Room. Next Joint Quarterly Workshop is December 10.
- September 5: Regular Commission Meeting moved to Wednesday, due to Labor Day Holiday on September 3.